

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 28, 2004

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission for Women was held on June 28, 2004 in Room 830, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California.

President Jernigan called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. The following Commissioners were present for roll call:

President Jernigan
Treasurer Lesser
Commissioner Davalos
Commissioner Gravely
Commissioner Lewis
Commissioner Morgan
Commissioner Mummey
Commissioner Rodriguez

Introduction of the audience followed.

(Commissioner Duba joined the meeting.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Rodriguez, seconded by Treasurer Lesser, and unanimously carried, the minutes of June 14, 2004 were approved with the following correction indicated in ***bold italics***:

Commissioner Gravely announced a KCET program funded by First 5 L.A. benefiting ~~foster care children~~ ***devoted to fostering school readiness in preschool children*** entitled "A Place of Our Own."

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Vice President Mariajimenez and Commissioner Perkins joined the meeting during the President's Report.)

President Jernigan's report is summarized as follows:

- She commended candidates and Commissioners for their professional conduct in the election of officers at last meeting. She noted that Commissioner Perkins had sent a congratulatory note to the newly elected officers.
- She congratulated Commissioner Perkins for being reappointed to the Commission.
- On June 14, 2004 the Finance Committee discussed the Trust Fund criteria and related issues, including maintaining equal representation of all Districts whenever possible.

- The Sheriff's Department will receive a \$40 million increase in the 2004-05 County budget. She expressed hope that the additional funding would enable the department to discontinue their early inmate release program.
- Female WalMart employees have filed a class action lawsuit on pay equity issues.
- On June 22nd Supervisor Knabe presented a scroll to Commissioner Lewis in recognition of Albertsons' "Partners Against Poverty" program, which provides monetary donations to the Community Action Board to assist low-income individuals and families.
- She invited Commissioner Rodriguez to participate in a court-community meeting on July 9, 2004 to discuss how the Los Angeles Superior Court could enhance its response in domestic violence cases.

STAFF REPORT

Staff reported the following:

- The County's mileage reimbursement rate will increase from 32.5 cents to 34 cents per mile, effective July 1, 2004.
- The First Lady of California, Maria Shriver, has created the Minerva Award to honor remarkable women who have brought about significant change for the people of California. To nominate a woman for this award contact Roberta Sistos at (858) 597-1706 or via email at rsistos@AlegriaEnterprises.com.
- Commissioners are invited to participate in an international exchange meeting with Member of the European and Hungarian Parliament Ms. Zita Gurmai Ph.D. in August. President Jernigan, Treasurer Lesser and Commissioner Morgan expressed interest in attending.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Commissioner Mummey thanked Commissioners for approving the \$500 donation to the Older Women's Conference. She also announced that her grandson is working with the Peace Corps in Mongolia, noting that women are increasingly joining that organization.

APPROVE 2002-04 STATUS REPORT EXPENSES

Staff explained the County's bid process and timeline for completing and printing the 2002-04 Status Report.

On motion of Treasurer Lesser, seconded by Commissioner Mummey, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved up to \$2500 for printing and publishing up to 2000 copies of the Commission's 2002-04 Status Report.

Commissioner Perkins, who oversaw the editing of the 2000-02 Status Report, volunteered to assist with the Status Report project. Commissioners agreed that ads would not be included in the report and that Commissioners would have the opportunity to contribute information and email suggested revisions prior to publishing of the report.

PURCHASE FOUR TICKETS TO RAINBOW SERVICES' SUNSET SERENADE

Due to the lack of a motion this agenda item was taken off calendar.

SET ITEM: PRESENTATION ON W.O.M.E.N., INC.

Commissioner Perkins introduced Gail Berendzen, President and Founder, who provided an overview on the programs and membership of W.O.M.E.N., Inc, which stands for Women Organized for Mentoring, Educating and Networking. This organization, which includes an extensive network of powerful and influential women, discusses a variety of topics from diverse perspectives and hosts the Highlight Awards, an annual tribute to those who have supported the endeavors of women and issues that are important to women. Some of their programs to empower and educate women include a care giving program and a non-profit alliance. She stressed the organization wishes to outreach to a more diverse group of women and invited Commissioners to become involved with the organization.

President Jernigan thanked her for her informative presentation. The Commission then discussed collaborating with W.O.M.E.N., Inc. on this year's 5k Run/Walk and Health Expo and other activities.

(Commissioner Mummey was excused from the meeting).

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

(Commissioner Becerra-Jones joined the meeting.)

Staff gave an update on the upcoming NACW National Convention in Pasadena from July 14-18, 2004. At its June 14, 2004 meeting the Commission approved registration expenses for ten commissioners. President Jernigan, Treasurer Lesser and Commissioners Becerra-Jones, Davalos, Gravely, Lewis, and Rodriguez requested staff to register them for the event.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Health Committee:

On behalf of Commissioner Creary, Treasurer Lesser reported that Azar Kattan of Health Services suggested that the Committee could schedule a presentation with Dr. Jonathan Fielding, Director of Public Health, on issues related to the Office of Women's Health. Ms. Kattan also suggested that the Commission could schedule a presentation with Fred Leaf or herself for an update on the status of the King/Drew Medical Center.

Education Subcommittee:

Commissioner Becerra-Jones reported that the Committee would meet at 12:30 p.m. today to discuss planning for the July 28, 2004 mentoring activity for the Commission scholarship recipients. She also reported on a bill concerning military service and on grant programs for children in foster care.

Legislative Committee: There was no report.

Media/Public Relations Committee: Commissioner Morgan presented the first press release for this year's 5k Run/Walk.

Older Women's Issues Committee: There was no report.

5K Run/Walk Subcommittee: Commissioner Duba reported on planning for this year's race, presented committee minutes and a schedule of upcoming subcommittee meetings, and asked Commissioners to distribute flyers for the race, which will take place on September 18, 2004. The subcommittee will meet today at 12:30 p.m.

Commissioner Perkins recommended contacting a representative from Smith Barney regarding participating in the event.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rone Ellis expressed interest in participating in committee work.

Genevieve Clavreul spoke on issues related to the King/Drew Medical Center.

Sharon White and Jose Hernandez offered to make a presentation to the Commission on their organization Project Angel Food. President Jernigan requested written information on their program.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Davalos participated in the following:

- A “Save Your Health Care” conference to support the Health Insurance Act.
- A City Club reception for Richard Garcia, the newly appointed Associate Director for the FBI in Los Angeles.
- A community event at Rockrose Gallery in Highland Park honoring Lalo Guerrero, the father of Chicano music.
- The screening of the new film *Fahrenheit 911*.
- A conference on race which was inspirational in light of reevaluating one’s commitments to racial peace, respect and tolerance.
- She also donated the book *And Don’t Call Me A Racist* to the Commission Library.

Commissioner Rodriguez reported the Commission would be acknowledged and the Commission logo would appear on the domestic violence screening cards. She also attended the “Building Family Safety Workshop” on June 16, 2004 in Los Angeles and would submit a request with an invoice for reimbursement for the registration cost. She also shared written information from the recent Commissioners’ Leadership Conference.

Commissioner Becerra-Jones requested staff to notify the public of a request from the American Red Cross for blood donations. To make an appointment to donate blood call 1-800-GIVE LIFE or log on to www.BeaDonor.com.

Staff announced that Commissioner Creary attended former President Bill Clinton’s signing of his autobiography *My Life* on June 25, 2004 at Brentano’s Bookstore at the Century City Shopping Center.

MATTERS NOT POSTED ON THE AGENDA

Commissioner Perkins raised questions regarding the conduct and outcome of the June 14, 2004 meeting, and expressed concern of how she was portrayed in the minutes. She said she was the only Treasurer nominee on the slate, but received zero votes while the candidate who was nominated from the floor received 9 votes. She indicated that had she been at the meeting she would have the opportunity to withdraw her candidacy. Further, Commissioner Perkins stated that in any election process if a candidate is not present to accept the nomination, the election cannot go forward. Therefore, she concluded that the June 14th election was flawed because the candidate nominated from the floor was not present to accept the nomination.

In clarifying the election process, staff read an excerpt of Robert's Rules of Order, Chapter XIV, § 45 – Nominations and Elections - When An Election Takes Effect, "an election to an office becomes final immediately if a candidate is present and does not decline or if he is absent but has consented to his candidacy. If he is absent and has not consented to his candidacy, the election becomes final when he is notified of his election, provided that he does not immediately decline. If he does decline, the election to fill the vacancy can take place immediately, unless notice is required..."

President Jernigan reviewed the election process which began in April 2004, and explained the Commission's election procedures based on Robert's Rules of Order that have a two-stage process: (1) the nominating committee and (2) the open nomination from the floor. She noted that the election is final only when the two stages are completed. The first stage took place in May 2004 when the Nominating Committee submitted its report on the slate of officers, and the Commission accepted the report and dismissed the Committee. The second stage relating to the open nomination from the floor was conducted on June 14, 2004 wherein the election was properly handled in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSIONERS

Ruth Jernigan, President
Yvonne Mariajimenez, Esq., Vice President
Charlotte Lesser, Treasurer
Yolanda Becerra-Jones
Karin Davalos
Reiko Duba
Wadie Gravely
Bonnie J. Lewis
Lila Morgan
Janet E. Mummey, Esq.
Barbara Perkins
Olivia Rodriguez

EXCUSED

Roslyn Cooperman
Ruth Creary, Ph.D

UNEXCUSED

Sophia Esparza

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Khanh Nguyen, Executive Office
Jim Corbett, Executive Office
Steve Erickson, Executive Office
Audra Galang, Executive Office

GUESTS

Genevieve Clavreul
Rone C. Ellis
Peggy Freeman, Xaris Ministries
Jose Hernandez, Project Angel Food
Sharon White, Project Angel Food